

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LISBON 01168 040928Z

50

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00

SR-02 ORM-01 IO-10 /089 W
----- 007809

R 040817Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1928

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

S E C R E T LISBON 1168

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PT, PO, PFOR

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE TIMOR DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: STORIES ON FUTURE OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR HAVE PROLIFERATED IN PORTUGUESE PRESS SINCE APPEARANCE OF CHARGE THAT GOI PLANS TAKEOVER. MINISTER ALMEIDA SANTOS AND A MEMBER OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR GOVERNMENT HAVE DENIED CHARGES GOI PLANS MILITARY INTERVENTION. SANTOS ALSO QUESTIONS VIABILITY OF PRO-GOI INTEGRATION PARTY. GOI HAS QUIETLY INSTALLED CHARGE IN LISBON. END SUMMARY.

1. TIMOR RARELY APPEARS IN PORTUGUESE MEDIA, BUT STORIES ON FUTURE OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR AND POSSIBLE INDONESIAN INTERFERENCE HAVE PROLIFERATED SINCE CHARGES OF INDONESIAN INVASION PLAYED IN AUSTRALIAN PRESS AT END OF FEBRUARY. EXAMPLE IS FEBRUARY 28 SOCIALIST EVENING REPUBLICA BANNER HEADLINE: "INDONESIA CONDUCTS ANTI-PORTUGUESE CAMPAIGN." HEADLINE FOLLOWED BY AFP AND REUTERS JAKARTA DISPATCHES QUOTING GOI ANTARA NEWS AGENCY AND INDONESIAN "BERITA BUANA" NEWSPAPER CHARGE THAT GOP GOVERNOR OF TIMOR LEMOS PIRES IS MEMBER OF COMMUNIST PARTY AND THAT GOP SOLDIERS IN COLLUSION WITH COMMUNISTS ARE PRODUCING CHAOS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LISBON 01168 040928Z

ON ISLAND.

2. INTERVIEW WITH GOP MINISTER OF INTERTERRITORIAL COORDINATION ALMEIDA SANTOS APPEARED MORNING MARCH 1 O SECULO. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT GOI INVASION CHARGES, SANTOS SAID "I SEE NO SIGNS THAT JUSTIFY THAT ACCUSATION." SANTOS SAID THIS CONCLUSION FORMED FROM NUMEROUS PAST STATEMENTS BY GOI OFFICIALS THAT INDONESIA HAS NO TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS IN TIMOR AND FROM WHAT SANTOS HAD BEEN TOLD DURING 1974 TIMOR VISIT. SANTOS NOTED THIRDWORLD OPINION IS FACTOR MITIGATING AGAINST SUCH AN INVASION AND REFERRED TO GOI'S OWN FIGHT AGAINST COLONIALISTS. SANTOS SAID "NOTHING HAS HAPPENED IN TIMOR THAT COULD PUT IN DANGER OR RISK THE POLITICAL EQUILIBRIUM IN THE AREA." MINISTER ADDED ALL PARTIES REALIZE IMMEDIATE INDEPENDENCE IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE AND THAT FRETILIN-UDP DEMAND FOR "DE JURE" INDEPENDENCE IS PRELUDE FOR TRANSITIONAL PERIOD TO DEVELOP TIMOR TO STAGE OF "DE FACTO" INDEPENDENCE.

3. SANTOS SAID IT IS POSSIBLE THAT TIMOR COULD OPT FOR INTEGRATION WITH GOI BUT, REALISTICALLY SPEAKING, IMPROBABLE. SANTOS SAID IF APODETI (TIMORESE PARTY WHICH SEEKS INTEGRATION WITH GOI), HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IF THEY CANNOT EVENTUALLY PREVAIL IN TIMOR WITHOUT USING "ANTI-DEMOCRATIC MEANS." APODETI SHOULD RETHINK ITS PROGRAM AND EVEN ITS EXISTENCE AS A PARTY. SANTOS SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE MORE USEFUL FOR APODETI TO BECOME A CIVIC ASSOCIATION IN ORDER TO CHANGE GOI IMAGE IN TIMOR FROM BAD NEIGHBOR TO "GOOD SAMARITAN."

4. MAJOR COSTA JONATAS, CHIEF OF CABINET OF INFORMATION DEPARTMENT IN TIMOR, ARRIVED LISBON FEB 26 TO CONFER WITH MFA COORDINATING COMMITTEE AND DECOLONIZATION COMMISSION. HIGHLIGHTS OF MARCH 1 INTERVIEW APPEARING EVENING PAPER "CAPITAL" FOLLOW: TIMOR IS GEOPOLITICALLY LOCATED IN AMERICAN IMPERIALIST SPHERE OF INFLUENCE. GOI HAS CREDIBLY PLEDGED NOT TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL TIMORESE AFFAIRS. FRETILIN IS LEFTIST AND PROGRESSIVE BUT NOT COMMUNIST. IT AND UDT ARE THE MOST POPULAR IN TIMOR APODETI IS NOT GOI CREATION; IT IS A GENUINE TIMORESE ORGANIZATION. JAKARTA DOESN'T REALIZE THAT TWO RADIO STATIONS IN INDONESIAN TIMOR BROADCAST SUPPORT FOR APODETI IN TETUM LANGUAGE. APODETI HAS BEEN STRESSING MATERIAL BENEFITS OF UNION AND HAS THREATENED OPPOSITION. BECAUSE APODETI HAS ABUSED RADIO TIME GIVEN IT ON E-
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 LISBON 01168 040928Z

QUAL BASIS WITH FETILIN AND UDT, IT HAS BEEN SUSPENDED FROM AIR FOR 45 DAYS. TRUTH BEHIND REPORTS TIMORESE REFUGEES HAVE FLED INTO INDONESIAN TIMOR IS THAT THEY FLED DESPOTIC RULE OF INTERIOR NATIVE CHIEFS. COMMERCE IS IN HANDS OF CHINESE COMMUNITY AND INFANT MIDDLE CLASS. GENERAL SOCIAL CONDITIONS ARE VERY LOW.

5. GOI QUIETLY AND UNANNOUNCED TO PRESS OR DIPLOMATIC CORPS SENT A RESIDENT CHARGE AND THREE OFFICERS TO LISBON.

THE CHARGE, MOHAMMAD MASSAN, IS CURRENTLY OPERATING OUT OF LOCAL HOTEL.

6. COMMENT: IN FACE OF MEDIA PLAY-UP OF GOI INVASION ALLEGATIONS, GOP HAS MAINTAINED CONSISTENT AND FIRM POSTURE THAT SITUATION UNDER CONTROL AND HAS SUPPORTED INDONESIAN STATEMENTS OF GOODWILL AND NON-INTERFERENCE. AT SAME TIME, GOI TAKING PUBLIC POTSHOTS AT LEMOS PIRES AND FRETELIN, GOP PUBLICLY QUESTIONING VIABILITY AND METHODS OF APODETI.

7. GOP APPEARS TO BE APPROACHING TIMOR PROBLEM WITH JUDICIOUS RESTRAINT, MAKING CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO ALLAY GOI FEARS. GOP NORMAL INCLINATION WOULD PROBABLY BE TO PULL OUT OF TIMOR AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE LIKE IT HAS IN OTHER COLONIES, BUT DESIRE TO AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH INDONESIA HAS TEMPERED ITS APPROACH. PRESENCE OF RESIDENT GOI DIPLOMAT SHOULD LEAD TO MORE COMMUNICATION AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PORTUGUESE AND INDONESIANS. GIVEN INCREASINGLY STRIDENT NOTE IN PRESS THIS COMMUNICATION WILL COME NONE TOO SOON.
CARLUCCI

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, INTERVENTION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, DEPENDENCIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON01168
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750075-0206
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750385/aaaacynw.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUN 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORTUGUESE TIMOR DEVELOPMENTS SUMMARY: STORIES ON FUTURE OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR HAVE PROLIFERATED
TAGS: PFOR, PT, PO, ID
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006